

2020 Council Priorities
1/17/2020

1/17/2020	UNDERLINE: REGULATORY REQUIREMENT						Yellow: Council approved recommendation				
										Total Staff Time	
FMP/Time	Annual	Comm.	Executive Committee	Council	Rank		Multi-Year	Comm.	Executive Committee	Council	Rank
Groundfish						Time					
	<u>Set ABCs/ACLs for half of groundfish stocks for FY2021-2023 and US/CA stocks for FY 2021; address commercial/recreational allocation issues if raised by new MRIP data ; investigate ways to increase GB haddock utilization, including modification of gear requirements</u>		x	✓	1; 27; 58		Complete Amendment 23/Groundfish Monitoring action		x	✓	1
	<i>Possible recreational sub-ACL for GB cod</i>				83		<i>Amendment to adopt limited access for the party/charter fishery</i>				71
	Address SDC issue when analytic assessments fail		x	✓	41		Cod Stock Structure Working Group: review results and develop management approach		x	✓	57
	<i>Modify the GF control rule for stocks without analytical models – i.e., empirical and index-based (see SSC list below)</i>				45						
	Get input on different ways to manage recreational fishery in light of highly variable catch estimates: for example, consideration of catch error estimates under MRIP, and errors in bioeconomic model used to determine measures		x	✓	41						
	Develop a simple strawman limited entry program for the party/charter fleet			✓							
	<i>Consider sub-ACL of haddock for the small-mesh multispecies fishery</i>				71						
	<i>Explore alternative ways to manage yellowtail flounder for the groundfish and scallop fisheries</i>				41						
	<i>US/CA trading provisions</i>				76						
	Action to adopt electronic reporting for party/charter vessels		x	✓	45						
	<i>White paper on splitting multispecies permits from other limited access permits</i>				71						
	<i>Investigate mid-year movement of permits between sectors</i>				76						

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	<i>Consider programs to facilitate access to the groundfish fishery for new entrants/young fishermen</i>				82					
	<i>Explore Atlantic halibut industry-based resource survey and potentially RSA</i>				76					
	Complete sector five-year review		x	✓	67					
	Groundfish operational assessments		x	✓	4					
	TRAC/TMGC		x	✓	9					
Monkfish										
	Conduct an analysis of alternative methods for estimating discards of monkfish to apply to future specifications, and consider available information on discard mortality. If warranted, consider adjusting specifications for FY 2021-2022	✓	x	✓	79					
	<i>Revisit use of RSA DAS and ability to flip a directed DAS to an RSA DAS while at sea</i>	✓			58					
	<i>Consider permit latency</i>	✓			71					
Sea Scallops										
	<u>Prepare a specifications package to set FY 2021 (2022 default) specifications (i.e. setting DAS, access area trips, Northern GOM TAC, limited access general category IFQ allocations, etc.).</u>		x	✓	1	Complete Amendment 21: NGOM management, LAGC trip limits, state waters fishing by LAGC vessels	1	x	✓	9
	Staff: Support annual scallop RSA process, including priority setting, and technical and management reviews.		x	✓	14	<i>Develop limited access vessel DAS and access area trip leasing pilot project suggested by East Coast Scallop Harvester's Association</i>	6			85
	<i>Evaluate rotational management program</i>	5			24					
	<i>Review and implement recommendations from 2015 scallop survey review panel</i>	7			62					

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	NMFS and PDT have annual responsibilities related to estimating scallop, yellowtail, and windowpane catch during the year (i.e. LA AM exception, re-evaluation of YT sub-ACL based on updated information).		x	✓	9					
	<i>Support action for access to Northern Edge HMA (see Habitat)</i>	2			71					
	<i>Evaluate options for harvesting slow growing scallops in Nantucket Light Ship-South Deep.</i>	3			70					
	<i>Modify RSA program as recommended by RSA Program Review (see below)</i>	4			54					
	<i>Performance report for the LA component</i>	9			54					
	<i>Adjustments to scallop industry funded observer program (IFO coverage vs. required SBRM coverage, etc.)</i>	8			80					
Herring										
	Specifications for 2021-2023; action to adjust measures in the herring plan that potentially inhibit optimizing yield in the mackerel fishery (i.e. increase in herring incidental possession limit in the range of 2,000-40,000 pounds, modify seasonal closure of Area 1B)	✓	x	✓	84; 45	Action to consider GB spawning closures	1	x	✓	19
	Staff: Coordination with MAFMC, ASMFC on various herring issues (RH/S, etc.)	✓	x	✓	32					
	<i>Coordinated action with the MAFMC in RH/S catch caps in the herring and mackerel fisheries (prepare discussion paper)</i>	✓			45					
	Support preparation of a RH/S bycatch caps discussion paper with the MAMFC			✓						
	Atlantic herring management track stock assessment	✓	x	✓	14					

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Spiny Dogfish										
SBRM										
	<i>No Action Planned</i>									
Red Crab										
	<i>No Action Planned</i>									
Habitat										
	Participate in RODA and ROSA activities		x	✓	24	<i>Initiate action to revise Habitat Management Areas on Northern Edge of Georges Bank</i>				58
	Develop habitat and fishery related comments on non-fishing activities, particularly wind power, in consultation with other agencies, (including NMFS, BOEM, and MAFMC). This includes addressing offshore energy development issues.		x	✓	7					
	Develop Council policies on additional non-fishing activities (offshore energy policies adopted 2018)		x	✓	23					
	Staff: Co-chair Northeast Regional Habitat Assessment Inshore Work Team		x	✓	37					
	Staff: <u>Habitat impacts of other management actions</u>		x	✓	35					
	Staff: SBNMS advisory panel and ASMFC habitat committee		x	✓	45					

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Research										
	Consider implementation of RSA Program review recommendations for the sea scallop, monkfish, and herring FMPs: 1) Form a group to address recommendations 2 and 3; 2) Form a group to design an overall strategic approach to scallop surveys and implementation and funding of the design; 3) Council, GARFO, and NEFSC evaluate and document RSA program administrative capacity.		x	✓	27					
	Complete annual update to research priorities		x	✓	67					
	Support S-K program		x	✓	32					
SSC										
	<u>Support Council activities such as recommending ABCs</u> and making recommendations in the FMP development process		x	✓	6					
	<i>Understand and resolve poor assessment model performance (primarily groundfish assessments)</i>				14					
	<i>Develop consistent guidelines for application of Plan B approaches</i>				35					
	Develop ABC control rule for GB yellowtail flounder and other empirical approach stocks		x		19					
	Work with contractor, Groundfish PDT and Committee to develop ABC control rule alternatives for stocks with analytic assessments			✓						
Enforcement, Safety, VMS										
	Continue to support enforcement, safety and VMS issues.		x	✓	19					

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Whiting											
	<u>Set OFLs/ABCs/ACLs for 2021-2023; make adjustments to possession limits, seasons, transfer at sea limit, northern red hake AM or other measures</u>		x	✓	19; 62						
	<u>Complete action that addresses overfished condition/develop rebuilding plan for southern red hake</u>		x	✓	4						
	<i>Action to address bycatch issues in the fishery</i>				37						
	<u>Red hake research track assessment</u>		x	✓	27						
	<u>Staff: PDT receives annual monitoring report from Regional Office and advises Council whether management adjustments are needed</u>		x	✓	27						
Skates											
	<u>Staff: Annual skate monitoring report</u>	✓	x	✓	37	14	Prepare an amendment to consider limited access in the skate fishery. Initial step recommended by Ex Comm: identify clear problem statement, goals and objectives; reconcile data issues that would support development of a limited entry program.	✓	x	✓	67
EBFM											
	Conduct information and educational workshops on EBFM, focusing on potential application to Georges Bank eFEP	✓	x	✓	52	6	Conduct initial stakeholder-engaged management strategy evaluation workshops and work with the NEFSC (or others) to develop operating models to evaluate management procedures and strategies for potential application to a Georges Bank Ecosystem Production Unit. (Will extend into 2021).	✓	x	✓	54
	<i>Support EBFM activities (WGNARS, SOE, etc.)</i>	✓			54						

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Observer Committee										
	<i>Study issue of full retention/no discards.</i>				45	<i>Develop a policy and strategic approach to monitor commercial fisheries to address multiple information needs</i>				41
	<i>Policy and procedures for NEFOP "no sail" list</i>				52					
	<i>Appropriate observer protocols</i>				62					
	<i>Time Balance</i>									
Risk Policy Working Group										
	<i>Review implementation of Council Risk Policy</i>				62					
Trawl Survey AP										
	Address issues identified in AP charter		x	✓	37					
Inter-Organizational										
	CCC Working Group participation (EM, Legislative, CMOD)		x	✓	27					
	NRCC Working Group Participation		x	✓	9					
	International Fisheries Management TMGC/TRAC/Steering Committee ICCAT HMS Advisory Panel/HMS FMP NAFO Commissioner		x	✓	14					
Other										
	Review and implement Program Review recommendations		x	✓	32					
	<i>Review document preparation and approval procedures with GARFO, NEFSC (i.e. update 2014 Tiger Team report)</i>				45					
	Support Regional Fishery Dependent Data Initiative (FDDI)		x	✓	24					
	Protected Species issues, including actions as necessary to review Biological Opinion and implement NARW recovery plan		x	✓	14					
	Participate on Large Whale and Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Teams		x	✓	9					

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	Adopt additional measures for fisheries if required by Northern Right Whale Biological Opinion		x	✓	7					
	<i>Preliminary work on Aquaculture FMP</i>				80					
	<i>Dialogue meeting between Council, industry, and scientists to improve communications and cooperation</i>				62					
	<i>Consider whether fleet/vessel design should be an element of fisheries management</i>				86					